

School District Reports 8000 Students At Summer School

Nearly 8000 Torrance youngsters — about a third of the regular school enrollment — attended summer school classes for six weeks this summer. Modern summer schools are for everybody — bright, average, and slow students — according to Mrs. Trudy Aldershof, summer director. A tally of the first five weeks showed that more than 5600 elementary and 2300 high school students were enrolled for the summer sessions. The schools also got a chance to try out various programs.

SUMMER school classes do not raise the local tax rate, since Torrance officials were careful to see that attendance fees from the state pay for teachers' and principals' salaries.

Contrary to most people's preconceived ideas, most children seem to enjoy summer school. Although some reported that their mothers made them go or they wanted to make friends, most reported that their work was interesting.

A SURVEY brought such comments as "I needed help in some subjects," "I want to have an education," or "I want to learn new things."

Students said that they liked reading, arithmetic, social studies, and science best. However, they indicated that they liked spelling, English, and arithmetic least.

Asked what subjects they felt they learned most from, the students named arithmetic, science, and social studies. Nearly four-fifths thought they had learned more about the subject which gave them most trouble during the regular school year.

More than 90 per cent felt that they had learned more in the subjects which interested them most. Again, more than 90 per cent said they would like to return to summer school next year.

Elementary classes were designed to help youngsters get help or move ahead in subjects of interest.

HIGH SCHOOL courses were

taken both for credit and by "auditors." Many college-bound students took courses which they could not work into their regular schedules, while some students made up courses they had failed. However, more than half of the high school enrollment was of students who will become freshmen this fall. Many of these students took either "exploratory" or "accelerated" courses.

Areas of special emphasis this summer included, according to Mrs. Aldershof:

1. Attempts to get parents to tell teachers areas in which they felt the youngsters needed most help.

2. Checking and recording students' progress on permanent recorders, so that next year's teacher will know what the students' achievements and needs are.

3. Greater emphasis on kindergarten reading and arithmetic readiness and instruction, so that there will be no problem as the child moves to more difficult areas.

4. USE OF language labs at three high schools and at Casimir Elementary School which is having a pilot program.

5. Greater use of outside teaching aids, including films, models, pictures, and other materials which make lessons more interesting and meaningful.

6. Bulletins were sent out re-

porting on good teaching practices.

7. Schoolwide fairs were held in several areas, showing progress each classroom was making.

IN ADDITION to the regular classroom program, principals also took part on committees which met to improve and plan for various parts of the curriculum.

"We try to gear our teaching to each individual child," said Mrs. Aldershof. "Each year we get a larger number of children who come to summer school because they want to, not because they are forced to. We think that's a good sign."

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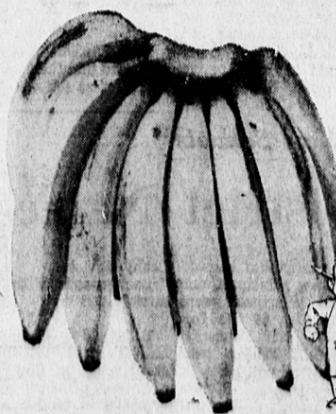
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